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CHRISTMAS
AND
NEW YEAR CARDS.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED.
THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY

ESTABLISHED 1841.

The delivery of the English Mail was begun at 2.30 p.m. on Saturday.

The November report of the Punjum Mining Co., Limited, and interesting war news will be found in today's supplement.

The first of the season's dances is to be given by the Institution of Engineers and Ship-builders of Hongkong took place in the City Hall on Friday night, and was a great success. The Band of the Hongkong Regiment played for dancing.

It is notified in the Gazette that a meeting of the Justices of the Peace will be held on the 8th January for the purpose of electing a Justice as an unofficial member of the Legis- lative Council in the place of the Hon. C. P. Chater, C.M.G., whose term of office expires on the 14th.

The East Anglian Daily Times announces the painful sudden death of Mr. Sidney Jeffreys, its Colchester representative, from an epileptic fit. Mr. Jeffreys was a member of the staff of the Colchester Daily Press and afterwards was one of the Staff Writers. On his return to the Far East he rejoined the East Anglian Daily Times, with whom he has been previously connected. Mr. Jeffreys was only twenty-eight years of age and leaves a widow and two children, with whom much sympathy will be shown in his sad bereavement.

Another performance of "The Mother-in-Law" was given at the Theatre Royal on Saturday night by the Hongkong Opera Club. There was a large audience, including H.E. the Governor, Dr. Blaikie and Mrs. Blaikie, Sir George Gurney, C.M.G., and the Acting Chief Justice (His Honour Mr. Meigh-Godman). The performance was a distinct improvement upon that of Thursday evening. Everything went off smoothly as possible, and the whole entertainment was most enjoyable. The embarrassing situations with which the piece abounds were of laughter, and could easily have been better put than that they were. The ladies and gentlemen who took the different parts did credit to themselves, and are deserving of the most hearty congratulations.

TELEGRAMS.

"DAILY PRESS" SERVICE.

London, 22nd December.

ILLNESS OF THE DUKE OF WESTMINSTER.

The Duke of Westminster is seriously ill. RUSSIAN DOCTORS AND THE PLAQUE IN MANDARINIA.

A Russian Medical Corps is proceeding to Manchuria to combat the Plague.

THE WAR.

REASSURING MESSAGE FROM LADYSMITH.

An alluring reassuring message has been received from Ladysmith.

MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL.

Mr. Winston Churchill is safe at Delagoa Bay.

ME. LEYD'S PREDICTS A BLACK RISING.

Mr. Leyd has been interviewed and predicts a rising of the Natives.

REUTERS SERVICE.

LONDON, 21st December.

THE POSITION IN NATAL.

No news has been received from General Buller.

The Boer position at the Tugela river is regarded as the strongest imaginable. The Boers, prior to the recent battle, dammed the river below one of the drifts, thus rendering it almost impassable.

REINFORCEMENTS.

The second Canadian Contingent numbers 1,059, and consists of three batteries of Artillery and three squadrons of Mounted Rifles.

New Zealand is sending a second contingent. The Corporation of the City of London and the leading citizens have subscribed £25,000 towards equipping a City Corps of 1,000 volunteers for service in South Africa.

Lord Wolseley has accepted the contribution.

FRANCE.

BEROULEDE'S SENTENCE.

M. Beroulede has been sentenced to two years' imprisonment.

GERMANY.

PRINCE HENRY RELIEVED OF HIS COMMAND.

Prince Henry of Prussia has been relieved of the command of the Cruiser Squadron.

LONDON, 23rd December.

THE WAR.

DEPARTURE OF LORD ROBERTS AND LORD KITCHENER.

The *Dawson*, with Lord Roberts on board, will pick up Lord Kitchener at Gibraltar.

Lord Roberts' farewell audience with the Queen yesterday is believed to have been a very affecting one.

THE CITY OF LONDON VOLUNTEER CORPS.

The City Corps of Volunteers for South Africa is complete.

Hundreds of applicants had to be refused.

MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL'S ESCAPE.

Mr. Winston Churchill is safe at Delagoa Bay.

INTERVIEW OF LORD SALISBURY WITH THE QUEEN.

Lord Salisbury had a prolonged interview with the Queen yesterday.

CASUALTIES AT LADYSMITH.

There is nothing fresh from the seat of war, except an official despatch from Maritzburg that states that there were seven killed and twelve wounded at Ladysmith on the 18th inst. The despatch gives no explanation how these casualties occurred.

REINFORCEMENTS FOR THE NAVAL BRIGADE.

The Admiralty is despatching another Naval force of 700 to strengthen the brigade serving in South Africa.

PIRACY AND MURDER.

THE CULPABLES SECURED.

Early in November, the Straits Government received the following telegram from the Governor of West Australia, which we published at the time:

"Brigadier Etzel left Broome October 16th for Albany Bay to meet the steamer of West Australia, which arrived. When last seen, he was 30 miles from the nearest direction west, Laopoda Islands. Four of the Asiatic crew mutinied, murdered Riddell, master of ship, son, and carpenter, and stolen vessel. Sudl assistance from H.M. Government in seizing vessel."

Nothing was heard of the culprits until the 17th, when a wire was received from the Governor of Western Australia to the effect:

"The Gaolers of Amboina and the Governor of Celebes report that a part of the crew of the brigadier Etzel, after murdering the captain, his mate, and others, and after setting fire to the vessel, landed in boats at Aden, and were captured by a sloop of war."

Information from the British Consul at Johanesburg sent down to Mauritius, and his birds, who could be forced together in Port Elizabeth, were despatched to Ladysmith."

Civil engineers are busy at Chicago, states a correspondent of a home paper at that city, designing a steel-framed palace for the Crown Prince of Japan, who is warranted to repeat earthquakes. A message was received some time ago from Japan and says that it was not possible to construct a building of sufficient strength and durability to resist earthquake shocks, while the walls of the proposed building would cost \$30,000 to follow, and the walls would be submitted and were accepted. Work has been begun on the structure, and it will be completed in six months. The walls will be practically constructed on the principle of steel like a huge box, so that it cannot

DISASTROUS FIRE AT WEST POINT.

HEAVY DAMAGES.

A fire which has proved the most disastrous of any known in Hongkong for years past broke out at West Point on Friday night. It will be some time before anything like an accurate estimate of the damage is forthcoming, but it is considered by no means improbable that buildings and goods to the value of £100,000 have been destroyed. A heavy line on the goods stored in them. The following companies are affected.—Commercial Union (Mr. W. H. T. Davis) £55,000; National (Mr. W. H. T. Davis) £10,000; Transatlantic £10,000; Insurance £10,000; Standard £10,000; Union Assurance Society £10,000 (H. Winkler and Co.) £10,000; Tung On £10,000; Messrs. Bowes and Sons £10,000; Messrs. (M. B. S. Morrell) £10,000; Union £10,000; North British (Messrs. Shaw Thomas and Co.) £10,000; Messrs. Bowes and Sons £10,000; China Fire and Marine £10,000; Swindon's agencies £5,000; China Fire, £30,000; and the Fire Brigades £10,000.

The Hong Kong Fire Brigade, the acting headmistress, an interesting programme was gone through by the children, including physical drill, song "The ash grave," dialogue, "Unity is strength," piñata, dust Moses' "Ella and Maude" Parker, and some exercises with Indian clubs by Miss Alice Leslie.

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THE HONGKONG DAILY PRESS, MONDAY, DECEMBER 25TH, 1899.

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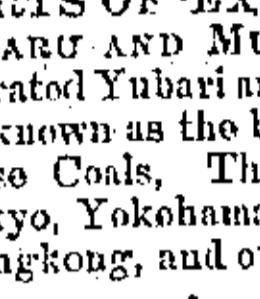
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The oil has beneficial effects in headache, fainting, colds, sore throat, stomach-ache, colic pains, rheumatism, numbness of the limbs, pain in the back, cramp, local swelling and inflammations, influenza, diarrhoea, toothache, pains in the head and convulsions after childbirth, prickly heat, boils, and mosquito bites.

Internally the dose is five drops in a little water, and it is to be repeated every two or three hours, at the same time using it externally.

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Hongkong, 26th September, 1899. 12437

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Hongkong, 18th January, 1899. 2599.

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Sander, Wieler & Co.

Ayr, British steamer, 1,855, Gibson, Dec. 17.

M. B. KAISHA

Benglo, British str., 1993, Thomson, Dec. 23.

Gibb, Livingston & Co.

Bormida, Italian str., 1,493, Sartorio, Dec. 21.

Cantowhouse, British str., 8,278, Maddox, Dec.

Chinese

Cheangchow, British str., 1,215, Webb, Dec. 24.

Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Denteros, German str., 1,001, Petersen, Dec. 20.

Siemssen & Co.

Eastern, British steamer, 3,600, Ellis, Dec. 22.

Gibb, Livingston & Co.

Esmeralda, British str., 968, Cobban, Dec. 23.

Shewar, Tonner & Co.

Haiman, British str., 636, Hodgins, Dec. 24.

Douglas Lapwijk & Co.

Hangchow, British str., 1,128, Peacock, Dec. 24.

Butterfield & Swire

Hiroshima Maru, Jap. str., 2,035, Yoshizawa, Dec. 24.

Gibb, Livingston & Co.

Hornbeam, British str., 2,074, Muhe, Dec. 24.

Melchers & Co.

Shansi, British steamer, 1,250, Carnaghan, Dec.

18, Butterfield & Swire

Siam, British steamer, 992, Holton, Dec. 21.

Bradley & Co.

Strathgyle, Brit. str., 3,234, Cumming, Dec. 15.

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Tantalus, British str., 2,158, Bartlett, Dec. 24.

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Taifu, German str., 1,046, Schulte, Dec. 20.

Meyer & Co.

Triumph, German steamer, 875, Rieke, Dec. 6.

Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Michael Johnson, German str., 710, Hemmet, Dec. 23.

Jobson & Co.

Nanchung, Brit. str., 1,062, Finlayson, Dec. 23.